

Serial No. 09/691549

- 7 -

Art Unit: 2132

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Claims 7-12 are allowed. Claims 1-6 and 13-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Stallings in view of Lehr. Claims 2 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the combination of Stallings, Lehr and the Siemens/PowerDsine document. Claims 1, 13, 19 and 25 are currently amended.

Claims 1, 13, 19 and 25 distinguish the cited references because a message is generated in response to power interruption. As discussed at page 11, lines 3-19 of the specification, a tamper module is employed to detect when a power interruption has occurred, and forward a tamper message to a network administrator. Claims 1, 13, 19 and 25 have been amended to emphasize this distinguishing feature. For example, claim 1 recites "a tamper module operable in response to interruption of power to the firewall from the power integrated network to generate a tamper message indicative of the interruption of power." Similarly, claim 13 recites "program code operable in response to interruption of power to the firewall from the power integrated network to generate a tamper message indicative of the interruption of power." Claims 19 and 25 recite similar language. Claims 2-6, 14-18, 20-24 and 26-29 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reason as their respective base claims. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6 and 13-29 is therefore requested.

Serial No. 09/691549

- 8 -


Art Unit: 2132

The Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

November 14, 2005
Date

Respectfully Submitted,


Holmes W. Anderson, Reg. No. 37,272
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Steubing McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-4001

Docket No. 120-208
Dd: 11/16/2005